

Message Text

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ACTION AID-59

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FM AMEMBASSY BAMAKO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7976

INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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AFDROUGHT

DEPT FOR UNDERSECRETARY STATE TARR

USAID FOR DEPUTY ADMINISTRATOR MAURICE WILLIAMS

E O 11652 N A

SUBJ: MALI DROUGHT COORDINATOR TO VISIT U.S.

1. MINISTER OF DEFENSE, KISSIMA DOUKARA, WHO IS ALSO MALI'S DROUGHT COORDINATOR AND A MEMBER OF MALI'S ELEVEN MEMBER RULING MILITARY COMMITTEE FOR NATIONAL LIBERATION (MCNL), IS PLANNING A FIVE DAY VISIT TO THE UNITED STATES ARRIVING IN NEW YORK OR WASHINGTON NOV 2ND. THE PURPOSE OF HIS VISIT AS DESCRIBED TO CHARGE IS AS FOLLOWS: (1) TO THANK THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT ON BEHALF OF THE PRESIDENT OF MALI FOR THE GENEROUS DROUGHT AID EXTENDED TO HIS COUNTRY; (2) TO MEET WITH DROUGHT COORDINATOR MAURICE WILLIAMS TO DISCUSS THE OUTCOME OF THE FEI TEAM VISIT TO MALI AND TO DISCUSS OTHER BILATERAL ASSISTANCE MATTERS; (3) TO

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MEET WITH OFFICIAL AND PRIVATE DONORS CONCERNING DROUGHT

RELIEF FOR MALI. MINISTER HAS IN MIND NOT ONLY PRIVATE RELIEF ORGANIZATIONS BUT SUCH OFFICIALS AS FOOD FOR PEACE OFFICER DAN SHAUGHNESSEY; (4) OFFICIALS IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE CONCERNING: (A) EQUIPMENT AND ENGINEERING ASSISTANCE TO RIVER NAVIGATION, I.E. BRIDGES, BOATS, AND MOTORS THAT COULD INCREASE GRAIN TRANSPORT ON NIGER RIVER; (B) REVIEW OF FOREIGN MILITARY SALES AGREEMENT; AND (C) EXPLORE POSSIBILITY ENGINEERING AND PILOT TRAINING IN THE UNITED STATES FOR MALI MILITARY OFFICERS; AND (5) MINISTER DEFENSE EXPRESSED DESIRE TO MEET WITH UNDERSECRETARY TARR AND TO PAY COURTESY CALL ON APPROPRIATE OFFICIALS DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

2. ACTION REQUESTED: CONCURRENCE ASAP THAT MINISTER DEFENSE CAN MEET WITH MAURICE WILLIAMS, AND UNDERSECRETARY TARR'S AND ITINERARY PROPOSALS FOR OTHER MEETINGS WITH OFFICIALS STATE, DOD, AID ON AREAS OF INTEREST DESCRIBED ABOVE.

3. COMMENT: DOUKARA IS PRACTICAL, STRAIGHTFORWARD, TOP LEVEL MALIAN GOVT OFFICIAL WHO SPEAKS FLUENT ENGLISH AND COMING TO U.S. FOR DISCUSSIONS ON SUBSTANTIVE BILATERAL AID THAT MIGHT BE EXTENDED MALI. DOUKARA IS EMBASSY'S MOST USEFUL AND COOPERATIVE SENIOR LEVEL CONTACT. HIS ORIENTATION IS NON-IDEOLOGICAL AND PROFESSIONAL MILITARY WITH EXPRESSED ADMIRATION FOR WORKING WITH AMERICAN MILITARY. EMBASSY URGES MAXIMUM EFFORT TO PLAN CAREFULLY THIS VISIT.
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